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P. 02

Georgia Hanson

551 N. Mable Avenue - Sioux Falls, SD 57103

December 31, 2001

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Renata:

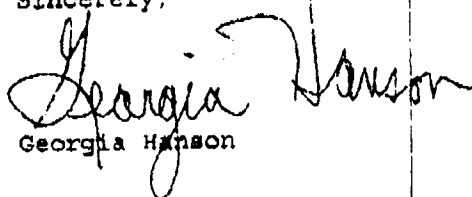
The recently achieved settlement on U.S. vs. Microsoft will bring a wonderful opportunity to bridge the digital divide which exists for children in several counties of my state. I want you to know that South Dakota has had three of the nation's most impoverished counties, according to the Census Bureau, which are located on Indian Reservations. However, poverty in South Dakota is found in non-Indian counties where children live in farms, ranches and rural communities. Thanks to this settlement, these children won't have to stand last in line for this fundamentally important educational tool.

As a consultant and businesswoman, I am pleased that this settlement offers the hope that Microsoft will be able to continue its good work for new software innovations.

However, the most important benefit for our nation's economy rests with the conclusion of a court case which has certainly run its course. I was very pleased that the federal government and half of the states involved in the case reached a settlement in an anti-trust case where no harm to consumers was established. I am also very concerned about the effect on our economy and on the stability of the information technologies sector of our economy if this settlement is abandoned. Further compromises and penalties would have a chilling effect on any company's ability to become as innovative and productively assertive as Microsoft has been in its drive to be the most successful software developer in the world.

It is clear that the critical issues in the case have been resolved. I hope for the sake of this important industry that the last word has been said and that consumers will continue to benefit from more innovations and advancements in technology.

Sincerely,



Georgia Hanson